

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE COUNTY'S SEVERAL TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCILS**

Columbus, OH – At this morning's general session, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners approved recommendations from seven of the county's Tax Incentive Review Councils regarding compliance with the terms of agreement struck between local communities and private sector business entities that divert or abate tax revenues as an incentive to encourage particular economic projects to occur.

These agreements act as economic development incentives to businesses that have chosen to locate or to expand within the county's targeted economic development areas, which include Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs), Enterprise Zones (EZs) and Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs).

Nine of the 11 agreements reviewed by Franklin County's Tax Incentive Review Councils (TIRCs) were found to be in compliance and recommended for continuation. The following companies were involved: Delphi, Springs Window Fashions/CWC, Pizzuti Land Companies, Vision Service Plan, Rich Products, Abercrombe & Fitch, Discover Financial Services, Too Brands and Lifeline Systems.

Of the two remaining Enterprise Zone agreements, one was proposed for modification (Yokowo Manufacturing in Hilliard) and the other proposed for cancellation (AOL/CompuServe in Upper Arlington).

Commenting on this morning's action, Commission Board President Arlene Shoemaker said, " Our Tax Incentive Review Councils are doing a great job in monitoring compliance with these agreements. Their reviews help ensure that Franklin County's economy continues to grow."

Commissioner Stokes explained that, "The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that the companies that were granted abatements are living up to their agreements to provide jobs and investments within our Franklin County communities."

The recommendations approved this morning were from several TIRCs having compliance oversight for the following incentive areas: "the Franklin/Prairie Enterprise Zone, the Groveport Enterprise Zone, the Hamilton Township Community Reinvestment Area #3, the Hilliard Enterprise Zone, New Albany Enterprise Zone, Obetz Enterprise Zone and the Upper Arlington Enterprise Zone.

The county's Department of Community & Economic Development has established performance measures to monitor the effectiveness of these Board of Commissioners' incentive programs. The performance measures for these calendar year 2003 reviews have yielded the following results:

1) Per outstanding agreements, these companies were to guarantee a minimum of 4,679 jobs during 2003. The actual job count for 2003 stood at 5,310.

2) These companies were to guarantee investments of \$274.8 million during calendar year 2003. This figure includes construction of real property improvements, purchase of tangible personal property, maintenance of average monthly inventories on-site, and expenditures on payroll. The total investments made by these companies during 2003 came to just under \$488.9 million.

Five of the remaining Franklin County TIRCs were not convened, as they had no agreements to review from 2003. These TIRC areas include the Grandview Heights EZ, the Grove City/Urbancrest EZ, the Jefferson Township EZ, the Rickenbacker/Madison Township Tax Increment Financing District and the Whitehall EZ.

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